



GAU 2881

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the next Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are those cited in the International Search Report for a related PCT application no. PCT/US02/08920 (6 pages). A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed herewith.

Each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in the enclosed International Search Report of a related PCT application (which was mailed on March 28, 2003) not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. Therefore, no fees should be due. The Examiner is requested to consider this IDS on

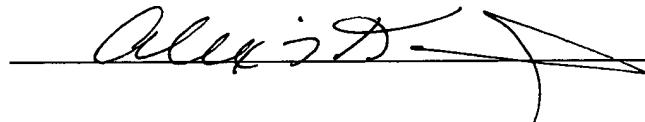
Information Disclosure Statement
USSN 09/829,781
April 8, 2003
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the merits.

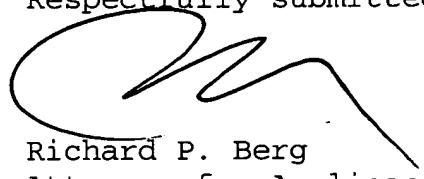
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on April 8, 2003 by Alexis Karriker.



Respectfully submitted,



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Encl: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of International Search Report
for PCT/US02/08920 (6 pages)
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)
Check for \$180.00